**Membership Update Notice – Issued 2nd June 2020 - Flyball Resumption as Corona Virus Restrictions are lifted.**

As members are aware the current social restrictions imposed by Government are being progressively lifted in line with a three-stage plan announced by the National Cabinet. Each State or Territory is determining the exact timing of each stage implementation in their jurisdiction and there will be different elements in some State plans.

Under Stage 1 announced by National Cabinet groups of up to 10 people were allowed to gather together outdoors, including for community sport training. This has allowed, in some cases, the resumption of flyball training, albeit with limited participation numbers. Clubs must however also comply with any restrictions imposed by authorities controlling their training grounds and any other approvals by control bodies such as ANKC. This has, in many cases, prevented the resumption of flyball training to date. It is hoped that these restrictions will soon be lifted by authorities.

Under Stage 2 of the National plan community sport and training may be resumed with maximum group sizes of 20 participants – this has now occurred in all States and Territories other than NSW and will certainly make flyball training easier to organise. The limit of 20 participants however will still not allowed the resumption of any sanctioned activities, such as race meetings or demonstrations.

Stage 3 envisages a lifting of the number limit to 100 participants. No date is as yet available for the introduction of this stage.

As soon as a Flyball Club is in a position to comply with its State/Territory regulations and any restrictions imposed by other relevant authorities, such as Councils or ANKC, it is free to resume club training in line with the regulations.

Whilst training can resume Clubs MUST ensure that all participants comply with COVID – 19 regulations, including to practice social distancing and maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters apart. This may require team training to be undertaken in a different way to normal.

Where local regulations permit, multiple groups of 10 or 20 may train in a designated area provided all relevant regulations are complied with. Where a Club decides to schedule staggered training times in order to accommodate more members than the limit imposed under the Stage it must ensure that members of the first group depart BEFORE the arrival of the second cohort to train. It is acceptable to have one or two people attend both to supervise equipment during the handover – those people however must be counted as part of the second group.

In an effort to assist Clubs the AFA has developed the following check list of actions that should be introduced as part of the training resumption process:

1. Hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities must be available at commencement of training and throughout the training period and all participants should clean hands prior to training.
2. All toilet facilities (if opened) must be cleaned prior to the commencement and conclusion of any activity and hand sanitiser must be available in those facilities if not provided by the owner.
3. A person should be appointed at each training session as the leader for that session and that person should supervise the policing of all social distancing and health requirements.
4. A record should be made and retained by the appointed leader of those attending each training session and this record kept for a period of 28 days – so that any necessary tracing can be facilitated.
5. All participants should be instructed that if subsequent to training it is established that a participant has been in close contact with a person required to isolate then the leader of the training session attended MUST be informed. The leader MUST in turn inform all attendees to obtain a corona virus test. The leader must inform the AFA Secretary.
6. Care should be taken to ensure the appropriate cleaning of training equipment after use, including balls – washing with soap and water is recommended.

Any breach of the regulations imposed by Government/Territories, State Canine bodies or Local authorities by any Club or member is likely to breach the Association’s Public Liability insurance coverage.

At this stage it is not possible to approve the resumption of sanctioned activities such as Race Meetings. This may be possible under envisaged Stage 3 Restrictions where a limit of 100 participants is envisaged. Stage 3 is not currently expected to be introduced before end July, but this is dependent on success of Stages 1 and 2. Even under Stage 3 plans, the 100 person limit will require race meetings in some States to be Limited Entry – say a maximum of 12 Teams of up to 8 persons. Per team.  This will be necessary in order to comply with the attendance limit whilst reserving places for Race Meeting officials such as Judges, AFA Representative, Timekeeper, and the like.

Further guidance will be provided when more is known of the implementation of Stage 3 provisions. In order to comply with social distancing care will also need to be taken to ensure adequate gazebo/cabana space and that teams limit the number of people within each gazebo/cabana based on its size.

The AFA will review the above position at each Meeting of the Committee and notify members of any changes.